

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in reply to Applicant's Response dated July 22, 2011.
2. **Claims 20-21, 29, and 35-36** have been amended.
3. **Claims 19, 27-28, and 31-34** have been cancelled.
4. **Claim 38** is newly added.
5. **Claims 20-26, 29-30, and 35-38** are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Valence (Reg. No. 28,275) on July 28, 2011.

7. Amend **Abstract** as follows.

Delete the last line of the abstract which says "(Figure1)".

Allowable Subject Matter

8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Independent **claim 38** is a rewarding of the previously objected claim 33 in the independent form which was indicated to have an allowable subject in the final office action. Claim 38 recites “...automatically determining said inspection path for said at least one optical picture-taking device by specifying a predetermined geometric relationship between said at least one optical picture-taking device, said at least one illumination device, and said surface on said three-dimensional object to be inspected by using said arithmetic logic unit so that said inspection path or an inspection time is as short as possible....” which are features that are not anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. All the pending dependent claims depend on claim 38. Therefore, all the pending claims are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HEE-YONG KIM whose telephone number is (571)270-3669. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/HEE-YONG KIM/
Examiner, Art Unit 2482

/CHRISTOPHER S KELLEY/
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